



PATENT  
1163-0270P

IN THE U. S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#15/Amended

Applicants: ISU et al. Conf.: 6441  
Appln. No.: 09/529,304 Art Unit: 2613  
Filed: April 12, 2000 Examiner: VO, Tung, T.  
For: IMAGE DECODER, IMAGE ENCODER, IMAGE  
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, AND ENCODED BIT  
STREAM CONVERTER

**RECEIVED**

JAN 15 2003

Technology Center 2600

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

January 10, 2003

Sir:

In reply to the Examiner's Office Action dated September 10, 2002, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application. Please amend the application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

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-16. (Amended) An image decoding apparatus for decoding a first coded bit stream into which first header information including a start code of a first kind and image coded data encoded in a first coding scheme are multiplexed, or for decoding a second coded bit stream into which second header information including, in the same layer as the start code of the first kind, a start code of a second kind different from the